

Oral Questions

expressed the support of the government for the legislation proposing a moratorium on farm foreclosures?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, the right hon. member is referring to an idea which, I understand, the Minister of Agriculture said seems worthy of consideration. I think the first thing we would want to do is see the bill itself. If the Leader of the Opposition has a copy of the bill, I wish he would table it so we could consider it as soon as possible.

Mr. Crosbie: It is your bill.

QUERY RESPECTING MINISTER'S INTENTIONS

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition): Madam Speaker, this question is directed to the Minister of Agriculture. If the government will not support this bill, for which the minister has expressed his support—let me rephrase the question to avoid the hypothetical. Is it the intention of the Minister of Agriculture to resign if the government does not support the bill, the principle of which he has supported in this House?

● (1500)

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Madam Speaker, I remember when the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition proposed high interest rates. I never saw him resign. He should resign now because he proposed that in 1979 when he was prime minister of the country. Now that is what his party tries to win on.

I said the intent, as explained to me by the hon. member for Lambton-Middlesex, of that bill—that I support the intent of that bill. If I can have something done along those lines—and we do that in the Farm Credit Corporation at the present time. We do provide moratoriums under the Farm Credit Corporation for two, three and four years, as high as that, for farmers. We are doing that same thing, so the intent is there.

MINISTER'S COURSE OF ACTION

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition): Madam Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Agriculture. If the minister fails in his attempt to have the government support the intent of this legislation, will he resign, or will his principles be as flexible as the principles of the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and Minister of Regional Economic Expansion who promised that he would resign if interest rates went up but he stays in office while interest rates in the country soar?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Madam Speaker, all I have to say to the Leader of the Opposition is that I rarely fail.

PETITIONS

TABLING OF REPORTS OF CLERK OF PETITIONS

Madam Speaker: I have the honour to inform the House that the Clerk of the House has laid upon the Table the report of the Clerk of Petitions stating that he has examined the petitions presented by hon. members on Tuesday, April 20, 1982, and finds that the petitions meet the requirements of the standing orders as to form.

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PRIVILEGE

MR. HEAP—UNPARLIAMENTARY INTERJECTION DURING MEMBER'S SPEECH

Mr. Dan Heap (Spadina): Madam Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. During the debate on Bill C-104 yesterday, when I quoted some figures from a Senate report, it caused a good deal of excitement among hon. members to my right. There were a number of shouted interjections and I waited until today to see if any of them were recorded in *Hansard*. I find that one that was recorded is attributed to the hon. member for Bow River (Mr. Taylor). The interjection was "complete lies".

At the appropriate time I am willing to discuss with the hon. member whether or not the evidence given before the Senate is to be believed. Although the hon. member is a more experienced parliamentarian than I, I believe if he has not looked at Citation 319 of Beauchesne at page 108, he should look at it. I think that he would find that in the expression he used, "complete lies", the word "lies" is not acceptable. I hope he will withdraw those words and that the record can be corrected to show his withdrawal.

Mr. Gordon Taylor (Bow River): Madam Speaker, when the hon. member was speaking he said "the jackals to my right". There are no jackals to his right. It was a complete lie. I might add that if there are any jackals in the House they are all in front of him.

Mr. Heap: Madam Speaker, I recognize that there is room for a difference of opinion about words that the hon. member mentions now but the words that he used, "complete lies" did not follow those words, they followed statements regarding "these companies have so much cash flow" and so on. I believe the hon. member should clarify his words.

Mr. Taylor: That is another one.

Madam Speaker: I think that perhaps this problem can be solved quite easily with a bit of good will on the part of hon. members. Of course the way it is—I see these words in *Hansard* "complete lies", and of course that will not do. This is considered to be an unparliamentary expression. I think the problem can be solved quite easily if the hon. member for Bow River (Mr. Taylor) would say that perhaps there was a difference at the time when he said this and that at any rate he